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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

13 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board
Intelligence Resources Advisory Committee

SUBJECT : Collection and Processing Capabilities

1. One of the most persistent problems confronting the Intelligence Community is the adequate exploitation of the large quantity of information collected by various collection systems, primarily the technical systems. This problem is becoming even more acute as our collection systems become more sophisticated and are designed for increased capacity.

2. On the surface it appears that the Community is managing to cope with this problem, but I am not confident that this is true in all cases. Some processing activities seem to be staying abreast of the collection volume reasonably well; others are keeping up by adjusting internal processing to meet highest priority requirements. This results in substantial volumes of collected material never being processed. The value of this unprocessed material is not known. Moreover, my impression is that we are gradually losing ground as we continue to collect volumes beyond the capability of our processing resources.

3. Future prospects are even more troublesome. Virtually all proposals for new initiatives, modernization or systems improvements that come to me provide for increasingly greater volumes of collected data. There are current examples of this

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5. It is incumbent on the Community that collection and processing capabilities be put into better balance. We must regard the intelligence process as a total system which can be effective only when collected data has been processed, analyzed and the end product presented in a meaningful way.

6. I solicit the attention of IC program managers to this problem. In particular, I request that proposals for new or improved collection systems be accompanied by companion proposals concerning processing and analysis of data to be collected.

7. It is my intent to include in my FY 1975 Objectives recommendation to the President a specific objective that will facilitate our collective effort against this problem.



W. E. Colby

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